

SENATE—Wednesday, February 28, 2001

The Senate met at 10:01 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JUDD GREGG, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

O God of spiritual fire, set us aflame with true passion. Your presence burning in us gives us empathy for others and enthusiasm for our calling to be servant leaders. Your love in us is like a fire. It sets us ablaze with moral passion and social responsibility. You give us devotion for social justice. Our commitment to fight for what is right consumes us. On fire with patriotism, we love our Nation and serve with radiance. Your fire also burns out the chaff of negativism, divisiveness, and judgmentalism. You purify our motives with Your holy fire.

Lord, Your fire galvanizes us into oneness. Here are our hearts. If they have burned out, relight them; if the flame is low, stoke it with Your Spirit; if our fires are banked, set them ablaze again.

Today, we especially thank You for John W. Euill II, Detective and Crime Specialist for the U.S. Capitol Police, who has recently retired after faithfully serving this body. Bless John and his family. May his retirement years continue to be joyful and purposeful. Through our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JUDD GREGG led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 28, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JUDD GREGG, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,
President pro tempore.

Mr. GREGG thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Alaska is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, let me take this opportunity to wish you and my good friend, Senator REID, good morning.

I announce on behalf of the leader, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 1 p.m., with the time between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. under the control of Senator DURBIN and Senator THOMAS. Following morning business, the Senate may consider the bankruptcy legislation or any nominations that are available for action. Members should be aware that votes are possible during today's session. Notification will be given to all offices as those votes are scheduled.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 1 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

ENERGY POLICY

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I have been given a few moments this morning to share with you a concern I have over legislation that undoubtedly will be introduced at some time in the Senate. It involves the issue of ANWR, which is an area in my State of Alaska that is looked upon by many as a partial solution to our energy crisis and to others as a sacrifice of our environmental character and quality. Let me, just for reference, identify the ANWR area because, again, I think we need to keep things in perspective.

This is ANWR. It is about 19 million acres, the size of the State of South Carolina. You see this area way up in the corner, that is a proportion, the proportion of how it looks in relation to the entire landmass of the State of Alaska. The point I want to bring out

to my colleagues is that roughly half, 8.5 million acres, are in wilderness in perpetuity. The other portion is refuge, leaving a coastal plain of about 1.5 million acres about which only Congress can make a determination whether or not it could or should be opened.

As a consequence, in our energy bill which we introduced yesterday, I found there was very little focus on the bill itself. Most of the focus seems to be on the issue of ANWR. I want to make sure everyone understands, as we look at this energy crisis, ANWR is not the answer. It is not intended to be the answer. But it is part of the solution to our energy crisis for specific reasons. A, we are 56-percent dependent on imported oil. B, as a consequence of that, one has to question at what time, at what point we begin, if you will, to jeopardize our national energy security because of our increased dependence on imported oil.

I was asked the other day: Senator what was our dependence in 1973 when we had the Arab oil embargo; it was 37 percent, it is 56 percent now. The Department of Energy says if we keep going the way we are, we will be over 62 percent or 63 percent by the year 2006 or 2007. At what point do we really compromise our national security by being so dependent on outside sources: Do we rely on Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Mexico, and other areas?

Let's look back to 1991-1992. We fought a war over oil. We stopped Saddam Hussein from going into Kuwait. He had his eyes on Saudi Arabia as well. He wanted to control the world's supply of oil. So we have already pretty much made the commitment of just how far we will go. Now the question is, As we become more dependent, when does our national security really become jeopardized? I think we are there already.

As a consequence, any effort, in my opinion, by Members to consider introducing legislation that would put ANWR in a wilderness in perpetuity really puts our national security at risk. I ask Members who obviously have a sensitivity concerning the environment—which we all do—to reflect a little bit on the merits of this legislation. At a time when we have an energy crisis in this country, is it appropriate that Members, who obviously are extremely sensitive to the pressures by the environmental community, would yield to those pressures and suggest we put the area where we are most likely to make a major discovery, in North America, off limits at a time when we have an energy crisis? At a time when we have previously fought a war over oil?